Trench 15

24th of October 1915

To Alcy and children

I got your letter, sorry to hear about Mum I am sending all my wishes that Mum gets better. Great job Alice on your nursing course. Soon you might come and help over here, well good luck. Alcy congratulations on the baby hope all goes well. Send me more and if any names are in mind tell me.

At the moment I am writing from the shadiest part of trench 15, I am staying out of the burning hot sun. Sorry about the writing my hands are burning which makes them shake. I am sitting around my new mates you remember Frank and John. I am on a brake, but just for a few minutes.

The food that I have been eating has been porridge. It smells like the cows back home at the farm and isn’t very nice but I can handle it. Also bread, milk and water they supply the food regularly. At night we manly have vegetables and water to drink but we only have water at the moment.

Yesterday the heat was so hot. A bomb was dropped close to base, the sparks from the explosion set the base on fire. Me and most of the crew was bucketed water from the beach. It was a terrifying moment for most soldiers sprinting and running along the beach for half the day. At the end of the rush, once we put it out, almost everyone was so tired that they fell asleep straight away.

When we did training we went to Egypt I played football, I kicked 5 goals it felt good to not be hearing guns bullets and bombs every second of the day. All I could hear was the heat passing by and fresh air. Also people cheering because they kicked a goal.

Sorry my few minutes is almost over, better head back and get the gun and start again.

Love Joe

P.S Hope Mum gets better. Congratulations on the baby Alcy. Also Alice nice work, keep going.